

**BUFFALO, STATE UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK AT.**  
See UNIVERSITIES AND COLLEGES (table [New York, State University of]).

**BUFFALO BILL** (1846-1917), whose real name was WILLIAM FREDERICK CODY, was a rugged frontiersman of the American West. He later became a popular showman.

Cody was born in Scott County, Iowa, on Feb. 26, 1846. When he was eight, his family moved to Kansas. After his father died in 1857, young Will rode a mule as a messenger for a freighting firm. He went to school for a year, then made trips west with wagon trains. He looked after livestock at first, then drove a team of horses. In 1860, Cody rode on a mail route for the Pony Express.

During the Civil War, Cody joined a *Jayhawk* (anti-slavery) organization. He later served as a Union scout. After the war, Cody operated a hotel in a Kansas village. When that venture failed, he started a freighting business, but then Indians captured his wagons and horses.

After speculating in land and doing railroad construction work, he became a buffalo hunter, supplying meat for workmen building a railroad west across Kansas. His amazing skill with a rifle earned him his nickname, "Buffalo Bill."

From 1868 to 1872, Cody served as a civilian scout for military forces fighting Indians in the West. Between campaigns, he served as a guide for several parties of buffalo hunters.

Cody was awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor for gallantry in a fight with Indians on the Platte River in 1872. Congress revoked the award in 1917 be-

## BUFFALO CEREMONIALS

cause Cody was not a member of the military at the time the award was made.

Late in 1872, Cody began his long career as a showman. He appeared first in "Wild West" shows in theaters. He took the leading role in a play, *Scouts of the Prairies*, which co-starred "Texas Jack" Omohundro and, later, "Wild Bill" Hickok. But Cody made several trips back to the plains to scout and to raise cattle. In 1876, he took part in a skirmish with Cheyenne Indians in which he was said to have killed and scalped a young chief, Yellow Hand.

Early in 1883, Cody and others formed a traveling "Wild West Circus" that toured the United States and parts of Europe. The show included a mock battle with Indians and a demonstration of Cody's shooting skill. Cody continued to perform until shortly before his death.

After 1894, Cody lived on a ranch in the Bighorn Basin in northwestern Wyoming. His grave is located on Lookout Mountain, near the town of Golden, Colo.

WAYNE GARD

See also NEBRASKA (Places to Visit; color picture: Buffalo Bill's Home); COLORADO (picture: Historic Colorado [Buffalo Bill's Grave]).

**BUFFALO BILL DAM** is a concrete arch dam on the Shoshone River in northwestern Wyoming. It stands about 44 miles (71 kilometers) from the eastern entrance to Yellowstone National Park. The dam provides electric power and it also stores water that is used for irrigation in nearby areas.

Buffalo Bill Dam is 325 feet (99 meters) high. It is 10 feet (3 meters) thick at the top, 108 feet (33 meters) long at the base, and 200 feet (61 meters) long at the crest. The reservoir can store 456,600 acre-feet (563,210,000 cubic meters) of water. A hydroelectric plant has been built downstream from the dam. The plant can generate up to 5,600 kilowatts.

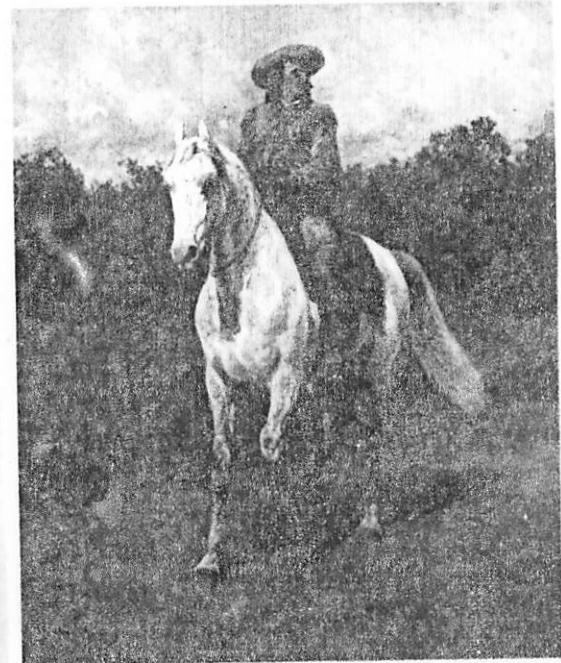
Buffalo Bill Dam was built in 1910 as part of a federal reclamation project. It was called Shoshone Dam until 1946. At the time of its construction, it was the world's highest arch dam.

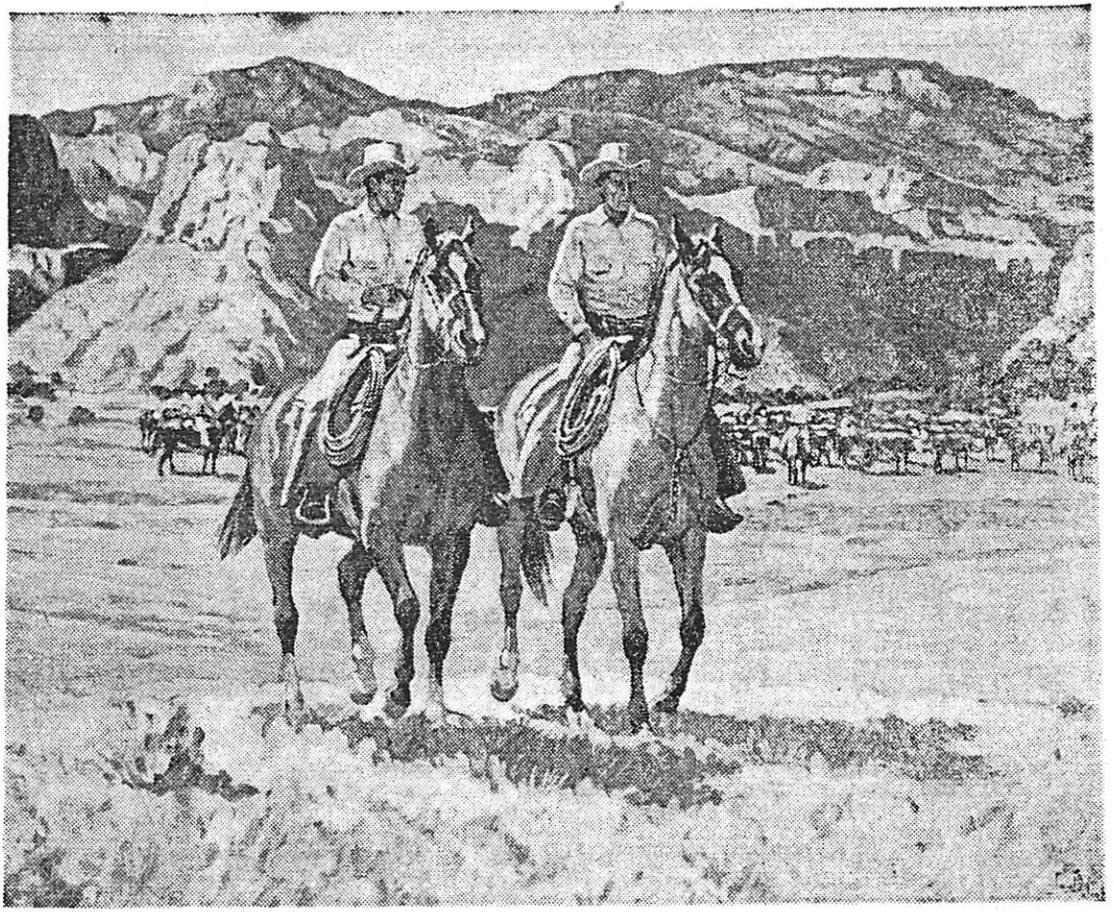
T. W. MERMEL

For the location of Buffalo Bill Reservoir, see WYOMING (physical map). *13 1597*

"**Buffalo Bill**" **Cody**, from a painting by Rosa Bonheur, the famous French artist. Before becoming a circus showman, he is said to have killed over 4,000 buffaloes in 18 months for workers building a western railroad. This earned him his nickname.

Whitney Museum of Western Art, Cody, Wyo.

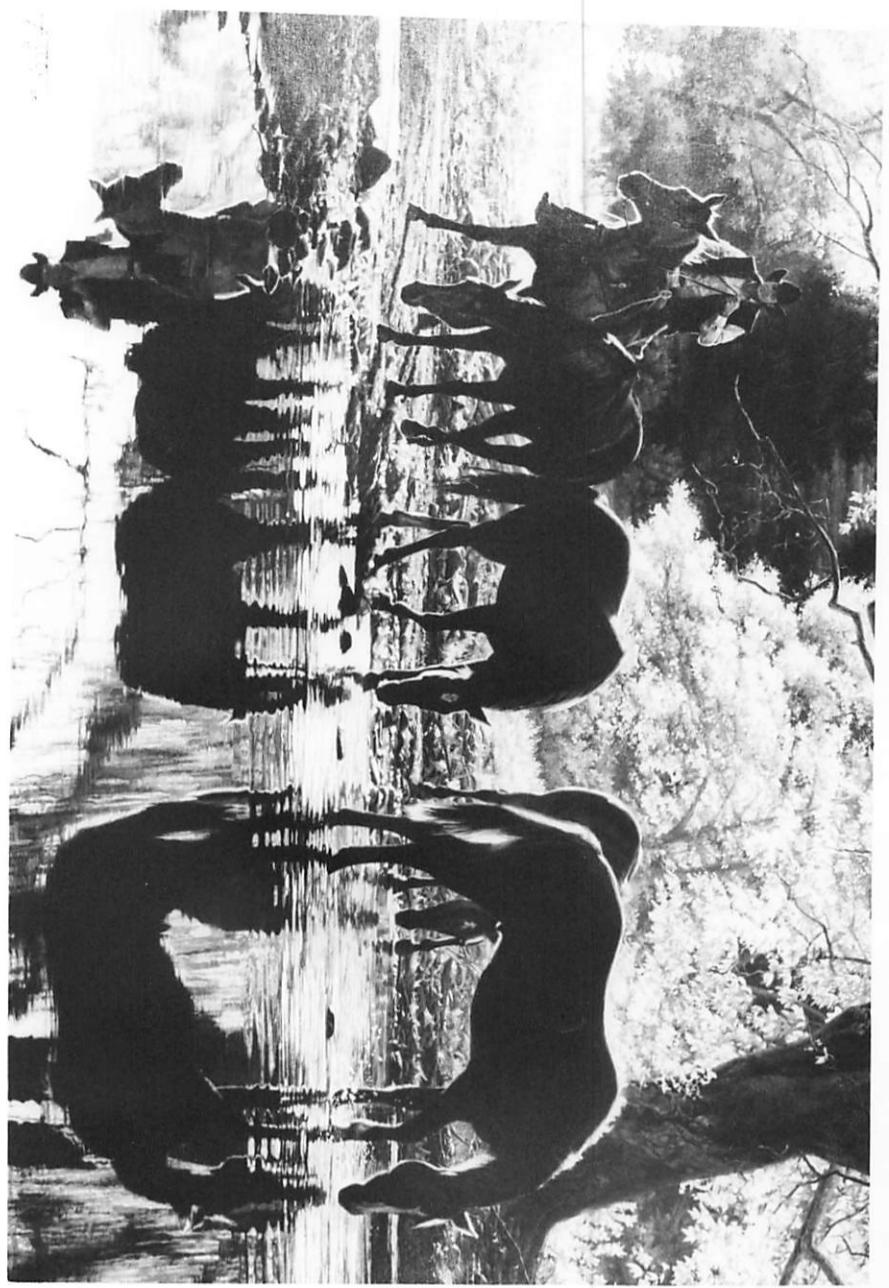




Backgrounded by rugged terrain, two finely mounted riders cross a Utah cattle range. Done in

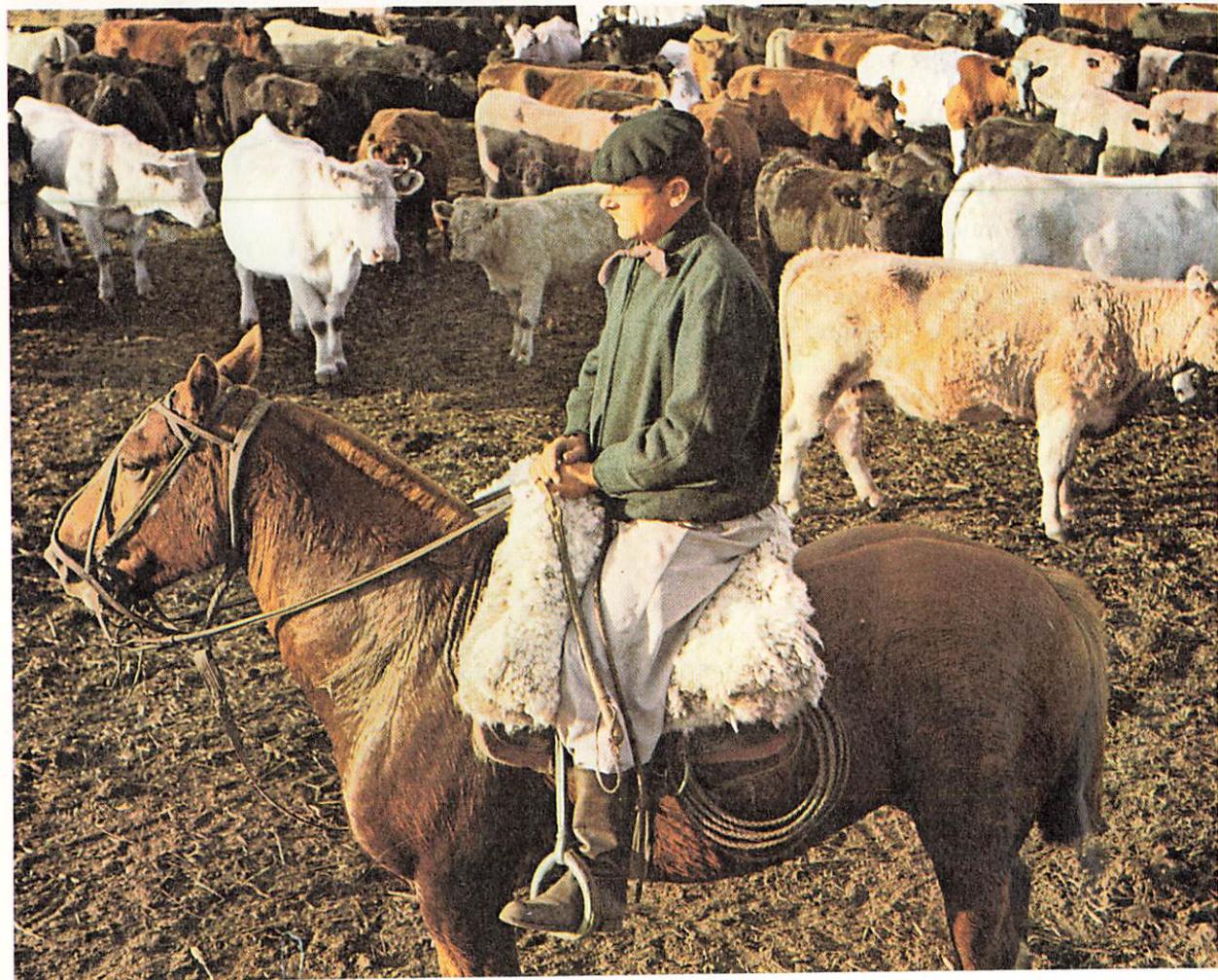


superb fashion by Paul Salisbury, the painting is attracting attention at ZCMI Tiffin room display.





An Argentine cowboy herds cattle on the pampas. Why are the pampas well suited to raising cattle?





**BUSH'S BALANCING ACT**

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**EARTH DAY '90**

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## REVOLVER

REVOLVER is a hand firearm that has had an important place in recent history. In its simplest form, a revolver consists of a fixed barrel (tube), a firing mechanism, and a revolving cylinder that carries loaded cartridges into alignment with the firing mechanism and the rear of the barrel. The cylinder has several chambers for cartridges evenly spaced around its axis. Revolvers usually have five or six chambers, and are often called *six-shooters*.

A revolver is *cocked* when a new chamber is aligned with the barrel and firing mechanism. There are two ways to cock a revolver. In a *single-action* revolver, the user pulls back the hammer by hand and then pulls the trigger to fire. In a *double-action* revolver, squeezing the trigger once cocks the hammer and then fires the weapon.

A typical revolver has a cylinder with six chambers arranged around a central axis. The cylinder may swing out so that it can be easily loaded. The chambers are loaded with six cartridges. When the cylinder is closed, the revolver is ready for firing. The action of cocking causes the cylinder to rotate, aligning the next chamber with the barrel.

Most modern revolvers use rimmed ammunition loaded with smokeless powder. The ammunition contains either plain lead or metal-jacketed lead bullets. Most ammunition made in the United States has a jacket containing 95 per cent copper and 5 per cent zinc. Some revolver ammunition has steel jackets.

The idea for a revolver dates back to the early 1500's. But the first person to design a revolver simple and rugged enough for long use was an American inventor, Samuel Colt. He received a British patent for his revolver in 1835 and received a U.S. patent the following year.

Critically reviewed by DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY

See also BULLET; COLT, SAMUEL; FIREARM; PISTOL.

REX. See MARDI GRAS.

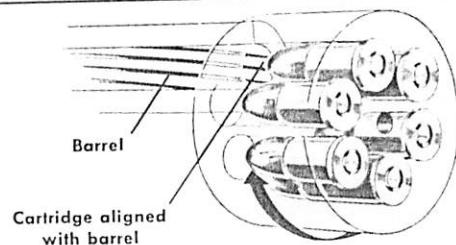
REX CAT. See CAT (Rex Cats).

**REXROTH, KENNETH** (1905- ), is an American poet. Since 1940, he has called for freedom from traditional styles in poetry, which he considers artificial. This attitude led many critics to call Rexroth the forerunner of the beat movement of the 1950's. Beat writers attacked the use of what they considered outmoded traditions in art.

Rexroth's poems generally show he has a more complex, interesting, and informed mind than most Beat writers. *The Dragon and the Unicorn* (1952) is a book-length story poem that explores the nature of love. *In Defense of the Earth* (1956) contains love poetry, poems directed toward young people, and translations of Japanese poetry. Rexroth is also a painter and essayist and has translated poems from the Japanese, Chinese, Greek, and Latin. He was born in South Bend, Ind. MONA VAN DUYN

**REYE'S SYNDROME** is a rare childhood disease of the liver and central nervous system. Advanced cases can result in liver failure and eventual death. The disease kills from 20 to 25 per cent of its victims.

Most patients with Reye's syndrome are from 4 to 15 years old. The majority of them develop the disease while recovering from a mild viral illness, such as chicken pox or influenza. For some unknown reason, the virus apparently triggers Reye's syndrome. At first,



A Revolver Cylinder usually has six chambers to hold the cartridges. Cocking a revolver rotates the cylinder so the next cartridge aligns with the barrel.

### The Development of the Revolver

The revolver has undergone various improvements since Samuel Colt, an American inventor, patented the firearm in England in 1835. Some important models are shown below.

Colt's Patent Fire Arms Mfg. Co., Inc.; Smith & Wesson



First Colt 1835



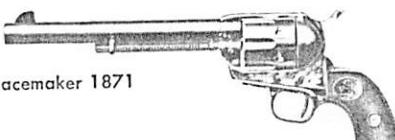
Colt Paterson 1838



Colt Walker 1847



Colt Gold Inlaid 1851



Colt Peacemaker 1871



Military and Police Revolver Used Today